

March 19, 2019



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN MARTIN COUNTY ADDRESSES COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

### Contact:

Renay Rouse [Renay.Rouse@FLHealth.gov](mailto:Renay.Rouse@FLHealth.gov) 772-631-6008

**Martin County, FL –** The Florida Department of Health in Martin County recognizes the value in measuring health outcomes and today acknowledged the 2019 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps tool released by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This study highlights the many community factors that influence health and uses established data, much of which is available from the department at [www.FLHealthCHARTS.com](http://www.FLHealthCHARTS.com).

“Good health is the foundation for a strong, thriving community and we are pleased that Martin County continues to rank high in the state for overall health. Through collaborative partnerships with common goals, our community works together to address disparities, improve programs and develop solutions to improve health.” said Carolann Wegener-Vitani, Interim Health Officer for the Florida Department of Health in Martin County.

These rankings are a snapshot of the health of counties across the country, and they emphasize that health is not a singular effort but a combined work in progress across all community partners. The department works in collaboration with local governments, non-profit organizations, health care facilities, business groups, schools, faith-based organizations and many other stakeholders to improve the health of all people in Martin County. These rankings use data related to physical environments, social and economic factors, health behaviors and clinical care. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

In Martin County, the [Community Health Improvement Plan \(CHIP\)](#) is designed to address specific opportunities for improved health that have been identified by the community. The department has partnered with many stakeholders to implement the CHIP and collaborates regularly to track progress.

Implemented in 2016, as part of a five-year plan, the Martin County CHIP continues to make strides in the areas of raising awareness about existing Health and Human Services Programs, supporting School Health and reducing Obesity rates.

CHIP Council members remain focused on Promoting Healthy Lifestyles to reduce Obesity rates. In support of that measure, the House of Hope (HOH), <https://www.hohmartin.org/>, a not-for profit agency in Stuart announced a new Health and Nutrition Initiative aimed at improving and expanding access to healthier foods for their clients and partner agencies. HOH has four client choice pantries offering fresh produce as well as community nutrition gardens throughout Martin County. In addition, a nurse program specialist from the Florida Department of Health works in partnership with the HOH and many community agencies to provide free interactive programs to educate children and adults about healthy lifestyles utilizing the 5-2-1-0 Let's Go wellness model encouraging more fruits, vegetables and physical activity.

<http://martin.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wellness-programs/healthiest-weight-5210/index.html>

“Health is an obstacle to success, especially for low income families and individuals. We recognize the importance of collaboration and are seeking more ambassadors and partners to continue to advance this initiative, said Rob Ranieri, CEO for House of Hope. Founding partners in the *Hope for Health and Nutrition Initiative* include The Children's Services Council of Martin County, Community Foundation of Martin & St. Lucie Counties, Hobe Sound Community Chest, Palm City Farms Produce & Market, United Way of Martin County and the Florida Department of Health in Martin County.

To explore more health indicators in your county, visit [www.FLHealthCHARTS.com](http://www.FLHealthCHARTS.com).

###

### **About the Florida Department of Health**

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@GoHealthyMartin](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit [www.MartinCountyHealth.com](http://www.MartinCountyHealth.com)